



## Minnesota Ag News – Farm Labor

USDA, NASS, Minnesota Field Office  
P.O. Box 7068 – St. Paul, MN 55107  
(651) 201-6030 · (651) 201-6479 FAX

Email: [nass-mn@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-mn@nass.usda.gov) - Homepage: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>  
Cooperating with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Released: February 17, 2011

### Hired Workers Down Slightly in Lake Region; Wage Rates Up 6 Percent From a Year Ago

**Lake Region:** There were 45,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin) the week of January 9-15, 2011, according to the USDA, NASS, Minnesota Field Office. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$11.85 per hour during the January 2011 survey week, up 63 cents from January 2010. The number of hours worked averaged 36.0 for hired workers during the survey week, compared with 33.8 hours in January 2010. Minnesota experienced fairly average weather during the week. A couple snow events left varying accumulations throughout the state. Snow depth was greater than average due to a number of snow storms earlier in the season.

**United States:** There were 807,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 9-15, 2011, up 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 602,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 205,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.29 per hour during the January 2011 reference week, up 21 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.23 per hour, up 13 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$10.52 per hour compared with \$10.31 a year earlier.

WORKERS ON FARMS, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK, AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS, LAKE REGION AND UNITED STATES, JANUARY 2011						
Workers on Farms Hired Workers <sup>3/</sup>  Hours Worked Hired Workers <sup>3/</sup>  Workers By Work Type Field Livestock Field & Livestock All Workers <sup>3/</sup>	Lake Region <sup>1/</sup>			United States <sup>2/</sup>		
	January 10-16 2010	October 10-16 2010	January 9-15 2011	January 10-16 2010	October 10-16 2010	January 9-15 2011
	1,000 Workers					
	46	67	45	612	827	602
	Hours Per Week					
	33.8	37.5	36.0	37.2	41.7	38.9
	Dollars Per Hour					
	11.12	11.58	11.76	10.10	10.49	10.23
9.97	10.06	10.45	10.31	10.28	10.52	
10.30	11.05	10.90	10.18	10.43	10.35	
11.22	11.88	11.85	11.08	11.13	11.29	

1/ Lake Region = Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

2/ Excludes Alaska.

3/ Excludes agricultural service workers.